

WELCOME

Election time for the PCC

April is a very significant month for St James' and for all Anglican churches.

Easter is our most important festival, as we remember Christ's victory over death and his promise to us.

Closer to home, it is also the month for the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Both must take place before the end of April each year. This year they are on **April 22** at 1100, following the morning service.

The first business at the Meeting of Parishioners is to elect or re-elect two Churchwardens for the following year. All parishioners on either the church or the civil electoral roll can vote at this meeting.

There then follows the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). All parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll can take part in and vote at this meeting.

There are reports from the Vicar (this year the Churchwardens will assume this role), the Treasurer and other officers of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), on the events of the last year, and what

has been achieved in the parish. At this meeting, four representatives to the Deanery Synod are confirmed in office or elected for a period of three years. The number of representatives depends on the number on the Electoral Roll. They become ex-officio members of the PCC.

A further election for eleven ordinary members of the PCC is then held. Ordinary PCC members must be elected or re-elected annually. From their number they elect the Secretary and the Treasurer, who can both serve for up to five years, but the ordinary members serve for up to three years, so normally three new members are elected each year.

An auditor of the Treasurer's accounts has to be appointed. The auditor must not be member of the PCC.

The APCM is always interesting and offers an opportunity for anyone on the Electoral Roll to voice opinions on the way the church has been or is being managed. Do come and support your church, your parish and your representatives.

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*...I don't care how many kilowatts it produces...
you haven't got planning permission!!*

📄 NOTES TO NOTE



WEBSITE UPDATE

Lost a copy of *The Spire*? Want to read an article again? Do All the *Spire* magazines are now being put on the website in their entirety. Whole magazines dating from January 2006 are now online. Go to **Spire Magazine>Magazine Archives**. Selected articles from magazines are also on the website. Go to **Past Events** and choose the year in which you are interested. Both are being added to.

All copy for the next issue of *The Spire* must be with us by:
16 APRIL Send to the Parish Office (see contacts)

LEADER

Know what Easter's all about? Think again

In his first leader, **Peter Vannozi** asks us to look afresh at the Easter story and question what we think we know. Nothing is quite what it seems...



It is a little odd writing this leader for the April edition of *The Spire* in late February in Wakefield for a church community whose members, except for a few, I have not yet met!

I have, though, greatly enjoyed my contact with Liz and Rodney, and the PCC. I am grateful for the welcome I have already received. I will take great pleasure in meeting many more people in the months to come.

I arrive in Hampton Hill in time for Holy Week and Easter. In anticipation of this I offer these thoughts about the great festival of Easter, which it will be my privilege to celebrate with you for the first time this year.

Let me describe an experience. Maybe you have had it? It is when you realise - perhaps quite suddenly - that what you thought you knew just won't do anymore. It could be that what makes the difference is a highly-charged emotional experience - for example, that someone loves you or, regrettably, hates you. Or it might be that something read or heard shifts the way you think. A new piece of knowledge makes a sudden change. Or just looking out of the window at a familiar scene is to see it somehow for the first time. However it may occur the old way of knowing and the knowledge that seemed so sure no longer seem real, are not the whole truth.

On the first Easter morning the women who came to the tomb thought that they knew. They knew what they would find. Of course they did. They had seen Jesus' body placed in the tomb on the Friday, and a stone rolled across the entrance to the tomb. End of story. Certainly the end of the story of Jesus. The end of the hopes that the women and the other disciples had entertained.

It had seemed that this Jesus was something special. More than that, the chosen one of God, hoped for, and yearned for. Yet his execution put paid to that. It may have seemed that God's kingdom was to be established, but rather the rule of human beings was further underlined. 'Might is right.' Again, end of story. The women knew all this. No doubt. And they knew that what they would find would be a sealed tomb. A dead body. Hopes still dashed. Despair the only response.

'The light the resurrection casts is one to make us reconsider what we think about death'

Yet this was not what the women found. They found an empty tomb, and the old way of knowing had to give way to something else. Jesus was risen, and Mary's experience in the garden cast light on the mysterious absence of a body.

Now she knew what she did not know before. Now she had a new way of knowing the world, in the light of the raising of Jesus from death. And this way of knowing was not just for then, but also for now. But what is it?

First of all, we may think we know that death is the worst ever thing or rather no-thing, for death is an absence. But in the light of the resurrection, Mary Magdalen at the tomb had to un-know this apparently obvious fact. For when she encountered the risen Christ this was not so.

For ourselves the light the resurrection casts is one to make us consider again what we think

about death, and indeed to bring fresh hope as we view the world.

I am not sure that I would want to be preaching in one of the churches in Iraq at the moment. Where is the hope? Death seems to have a firm grip on things. Yet the message is still the same if the experience of Mary and the other women was real.

Secondly, the women who came to the tomb thought they knew how they had to behave - grief and sorrow, doing all that was proper in the culture out of respect for the one who had died. The decent way of doing things. Yet the experience they had changed all that.

Suddenly there were people running all over the place, Mary Magdalen twice to the disciples, Peter and John to the tomb. No slow pace appropriate to mourning, but the vigour of surprise and rekindled hope.

When we come to know something for the first time it is likely to excite us. It did that to the women and the other disciples on Easter morning. For ourselves can we recall when we have suddenly experienced the vigour and energy of new possibilities that mentally, spiritually and even physically set us off in new directions?

The new way of knowing given by the resurrection is like this, where death is not seen as final, hope returns and old ways of behaving are not enough.

This Easter maybe we can have a new way of knowing. Maybe as if for the first time we hear the story of the resurrection. Maybe it makes us consider what we thought we knew. And suddenly this no longer will do.

For the resurrection shows that nothing is quite what it seems. A very happy Easter to you all. Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

NEWS

Positions vacant. Your Cubs and Guides need you!

GUIDE LEADERS

The 3rd Hampton Hill Guides needs enthusiastic leaders and helpers to share their skills. We have a newly qualified Assistant Guider, young leaders, unit helpers and supportive parents, but urgently need up to two adult women to lead the group and help run it on a regular basis; two or three people to help run meetings twice a term; an administrator; and a treasurer.



We can offer training and mentoring, the support of an enthusiastic young team and the satisfaction of seeing young people reach their potential and rise to new challenges. For more information please call Guider Sue Blay on 020 8979 8239. **■ Tribute to Sue Blay - Page Nine**

CUB SCOUT LEADER

3rd Hampton Hill's Akela, Belinda Drake, is moving to pastures new at the end of the summer term and our group will be without a leader for Wednesday Cubs. We are a successful group with growth year on year for the last five years, our numbers on this year's census being in the region of 145 youth and adult members. We have two Beaver colonies, two Cub packs, a huge Scout troop and a successful Explorer unit for the older youth members. We are a very active group and enjoy all aspects of outdoor life and numerous adventurous activities.



Full training and magnificent support is available to anyone who might be interested in this prestigious position (we only have the best at 3HH!) and all we ask for is enthusiasm, spare time and the completion of a CRB check.

Join the autumn pilgrimage to Iona

If you were inspired by Greta Rosten's pilgrimage to Iona (*The Spire*, December 2006), you have the chance to follow in her footsteps this September.

Iona is at its most magical in the autumn and pilgrims have a special opportunity to experience time on the Island.

The eight-day package, led by the Revd John McManners, starts in Durham, visiting Ruthwell Cross and Whithorn along the way. Staying at Bishop's House, Iona, the trip combines relaxation, reflection and study. You may also choose to attend up to three services a day.

The cost is from £568 and the group is limited to 20. For more information call 0845 601 9567.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Averse to a vicar's woes



Prill Hinckley dusts off another page from the *Hampton Hill Parish Magazine*. Peter take note!



A Week in the life of a Vicar - February 1965
What does the Vicar do between Sunday and Sunday?

By Margery Orton

'Tis on a Monday morning, a fellow comes to call
To protest re a carpet sale in the Parish Hall.
Then an unexpected contretemps leaves the Vicar in the lurch
And a chap in dungarees calls about the boiler in the church.
Directly after luncheon, the doorbell it rings -
A parishioner is calling to complain about the Choir and
what it sings.
Cycle then to widow Gumly to lend an ear to her pains.
Dash back to a meeting to consider Wayside's drains.
Go to bed resolving tomorrow will be better -
"Get a lot of jobs done and write that trying letter!"

'Tis on a Tuesday morning - the Vicar's called to town
To sit in at a meeting or risk the Bishop's frown.
He has a sandwich on the train and back again once more,
Ting-a-ling goes the telephone and ratatat the door!
Tuesday night he'll try to write his notes for The Spire
Before the emergency meeting to discuss the risk of fire.

'Tis on a Wednesday morning, a parishioner comes knocking
To complain that the Vicar's done something she thinks
SHOCKING.
Calm her down and send her off with a forgiving blessing
Dear me! the 'phone is ringing, it's really most distressing.
And so on, and so on until the evening light.
Can he sit down with his family? No, it's Rehearsal Night!

Never mind, on Thursday morn perhaps he'll have a minute.
But he's called away from an urgent task before he can begin it.
It's stewardship and land-appeal and sermons by the score.
One thing gets accomplished - up bob a dozen more.
Comfort a parishioner who's feeling rather worried.
Calm down another one who complains SHE'S feeling flurried!

'Tis on a Friday morning - a funeral first thing,
Then off to the cottage hospital in response to an urgent ring.
In the afternoon he did sit down and this is what he wrote -
The first two items only under "Dates to Note,"
For the telephone is ringing, churchwarden's on the line -
"If you don't fill in form 123 the church will cop a fine."

'Tis on a Saturday morning - a sermon to be written,
Ratatat the door - "Come at once, our grandmama is smitten."
Be a tower of strength now to someone in distress
And back again to call of bells and glimpse of wedding dress.
Say, "I pronounce you man and wife" and off to fetch the
clippers,
And out into the churchyard to join the other snippers!

'Tis on a Sunday morning, the Vicar's up betimes.
His day is regulated by the churchbells' chimes.
After lunch, if he's lucky, he'll take the dog a walk.
But no, a churchyard grumbler engages him in talk.
Evensong is over - perhaps now his tasks are done.
Not so - the study light burns late - for some are not begun.

'Tis on a Monday morning, the Vicar must be free.
I'll go along and ring his bell, he must have time for ME!

■ The author is aware that here and there the course of the above is not smooth and easy going, but then neither is life for the vicar!

INDUCTION

PICTURES: NICK BAGGE, MARIA BEAUMONT, MARTIN HINCKLEY, PRILL HINCKLEY, HAL SEVERN AND DENNIS WILMOT



Peter's mission begins

By Dick Wilde

There was an atmosphere of quiet excitement in the crowded church as we watched the formal

procession of servers, choir, clergy, the patron, our new vicar, the archdeacon, wardens, bishop and chaplain enter through the West Porch entrance.

In the service, the presentation of the Revd Canon Peter Vannozi to Bishop Michael by Archdeacon Stephan was followed by Bishop Michael's sermon.

He reminded us of the story of St Cuthbert, whose feast day we had just celebrated, and its relevance to us all today. Cuthbert, Prior of Lindisfarne in the seventh century, led a life exemplifying the three duties of Christian priests: prayer, teaching and mission.

Lindisfarne itself, the Holy Island, joined to the mainland by a causeway flooded at high tide, gives us a symbol of full Christian life; working with the community as a whole, and yet able to withdraw from it for prayer and meditation.

Following the sermon we were all called to affirm our commitment to ministry, witness and service. The Institution and Induction, the central ceremony of the service, followed.

The Institution is the bishop's gift of



spiritual responsibility, the 'cure of souls', to the newly appointed priest. In the Induction, the archdeacon gives the priest responsibility for care of the church and its benefice.

Peter's tolling of the church bell signified the beginning of his new ministry. Our happy formal welcome of our new vicar was followed by the peace, and the eucharist.

After the moving solemnity of the ceremony, there was a splendid party in the hall with refreshments worthy of the occasion. It all made

for a most memorable evening.

Welcome Peter!

■ Go online for more pictures, the service and the sermon in full.





The Easter Message

Easter commemorates the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and is at the heart of our faith. This, our most important festival, is also the one celebrated with the greatest joy. His death on the cross was part of a divine plan to save humanity and reconcile us with God.

The Easter story is at the heart of Christianity. After all, Jesus would have been unknown today if his earliest followers had not been convinced that, against all expectations, he had been raised from the dead.

His birth may grab many of the headlines, but it is his death and resurrection that make his life so extraordinary. It means the claims of the Gospel are true. The risen Jesus is always with us in spirit, especially in worship.

It is through his death that our broken relationship with God was restored.

Holy Week is the last week of Lent, the most solemn week of the Christian year, in which we recall the final week of the life of Jesus with his suffering and death.

Easter is what is called a 'moveable feast'. The date is fixed according to the moon - it falls on or between 21 March and 25 April.

PALM SUNDAY

The first day of Holy Week celebrates Christ's triumphant

entry, on the back of a donkey, into Jerusalem, where later he would be arrested and crucified. The people took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting:

'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!'

Later that week many of those people would be shouting for Jesus to be executed.

This story should make us think about the strength of our commitment, and about times we have been unfaithful to Christ, or been hypocritical in proclaiming our support.

In many churches the entry is commemorated by processions, with the congregation carrying symbolic branches of trees or palm leaves folded in the form of a cross, both to remember the palm leaves which the people of Jerusalem waved when Jesus arrived, and to remember the cross on which he died.

The crosses are burned at the start of Lent the following year to provide the ashes needed for Ash

Wednesday.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday is the day of the Last Supper, the final meal that Jesus had before the crucifixion. During the meal Jesus took bread and wine and shared them with his disciples. We continue this ceremony, known as the Eucharist, as part of our worship in church.

The name 'Maundy' comes from the command given by Christ at the Last Supper, to love one another.

During the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as a message that rulers should serve their subjects.

In the 17th century monarchs washed the feet of selected poor people as a gesture of humility. Today, the Queen follows a more recent tradition of giving Maundy Money to a group of pensioners.

After supper, Jesus went with the disciples to spend the night in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus asked God if he could escape his fate: 'Father, if you are willing, take this cup from

me; yet not my will, but yours be done.'

Despite this prayer he submitted to God's will and continued to prepare himself. God sent an angel to give him strength for the ordeal.

Jesus continued to pray and such was his distress that 'his sweat was like drops of blood'. The disciples whom Jesus asked to stay with him fell asleep; even his closest friends left him to suffer alone.

A group of armed men, sent by the Jewish authorities, arrived in the garden and Judas betrayed Jesus by identifying him to them with a kiss.

Peter, one of his disciples, took a sword and cut off the ear of one of the armed men. But in trying to protect Jesus he had ignored his teaching against violence.

Jesus halted further violence and healed the injured man. The disciples fled and Jesus was taken away.

After the Maundy Thursday service the altar is stripped. Some people hold an all-night vigil in

► **Turn to Page Six**

EASTER

My words are the spirit and they are life

*Receive the Holy Spirit,
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven (John 20:22)*



► **From Page Five** church, remembering Christ's time in the Garden of Gethsemane.

GOOD FRIDAY

The day on which Jesus was crucified. The name may be derived from 'God's Friday' in the same way that goodbye is derived from 'God be with ye'. Hot cross buns, decorated with a cross, are traditionally eaten today.

Jesus was arrested, tried in a mock trial, and handed over to Roman soldiers to be beaten and flogged.

Then, to mock the claim that he was 'King of the Jews', he was given a crown of thorns and dressed in a purple robe. Jesus carried his cross to the place of crucifixion, helped by Simon of Cyrene.

The crucifixion took place at Calvary. Jesus was stripped and nailed to the cross. Above his head was placed a sign that said 'King of the Jews'. Two criminals were crucified alongside him.

After some hours soldiers checked that Jesus was dead by stabbing him in the side. Blood and water gushed out. His body was taken down and buried.

Good Friday is a day of mourning in church. Churches are not decorated and pictures and statues are often covered.

During services people meditate on Christ's suffering, and what this means for their faith.

The main service on Good Friday takes place between midday and 3 pm, as that is about the time Jesus died. In many churches it takes the form of a meditation based on

the seven last words of Jesus on the cross (see panel, right), with hymns, prayers, and short sermons. Some Christians go without food to help them remember the sacrifice Jesus made.

HOLY SATURDAY

Today the paschal candle is lit to overcome the darkness of death. It is the last day of Lent. Christ's body lay in his tomb.

In the early church it was a day of fasting and preparation for the Easter Vigil. Dating back to at least the Roman times, this is the official celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus.

It is held between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Day - but is considered to be the first celebration of Easter Day as, according to the Church, days begin at sunset, the night before.

The service includes the



first use of the word 'alleluia' since the beginning of Lent, as well as the first Eucharist of Easter.

The Easter, or paschal, candle is made of pure white wax and is marked with a cross, an Alpha, and an Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The four numbers of the year are marked

between the arms. This symbolises that Christ has been, is now and always will be with humanity.

The aim of the service is for faithful Christians to wait and watch, hopeful and confident that Christ will return at midnight.

The service traditionally begins outside the church, where people gather around a fire.

After readings and prayers, the paschal candle is lit from the fire and carried into the church, where most of the worshippers are waiting in darkness, symbolising Christ's tomb.

After more prayers and readings the candles held by the congregation are lit from the paschal candle.

The readings at the service tell of the creation of humanity, how humanity fell from grace, and was repeatedly rescued by God. The readings remind people of God's promise to be with them always.

EASTER SUNDAY

The Easter Season begins on Easter Day and lasts 50 days, ending at Pentecost.

The dawn of Easter Sunday with its message of new life is the high point of the Easter festival and of the year. It is a day of celebration because Jesus rose from the dead and lives forever.

Christians gather for the Easter Eucharist, a particularly joyful service.

Our Church is always beautifully decorated for this most important and significant festival.

■ **For more about Easter and other Christian festivals, visit our website.**

Easter services at St James' Church



Palm Sunday 1 April

09.30 All-Age Communion and Procession of Palms
20.00 Compline

Monday in Holy Week

09.15 Morning Prayer
20.00 Compline and Communion

Tuesday in Holy Week

09.30 Communion
20.00 Compline

Wednesday in Holy Week

07.00 Commuters' Communion
09.15 Morning Prayer
20.00 Compline

Maundy Thursday 5 April

09.15 Morning Prayer
20.00 Commemoration of Last Supper and Washing of Feet

Good Friday 6 April

10.30 Service for All Ages
12.00-15.00 Three Hours of Meditation - 'John and the Cross of Christ'

Easter Eve 7 April

20.00 Easter Vigil and Lighting of New Fire

Easter Day 8 April

08.00 Holy Communion
09.30 Parish Communion



EASTER

Easter Story Biscuits

Prep. Time: 20 minutes
Total Time: 1 day

Ingredients:

1 cup pecan nuts
1 tsp. vinegar
3 egg whites
1 pinch salt
1 cup sugar

Plus: a large plastic bag; wooden spoon; tape; Bible

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 300°F. Place pecans in the bag and let the children beat them with the spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested he was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19:1-3.
2. Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp. vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross he was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28-30.
3. Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave his life to give us life. Read John 10:10-11.
4. Sprinkle salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the tears shed by his followers, and the bitterness of our sin. Read Luke 23:27.
5. Add 1 cup sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because he loves us. He wants us to know and belong to him. Read Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16.
6. Beat until stiff peaks form. Explain that the colour white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3.
7. Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons on to non-stick baking parchment-covered baking sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matthew 27:57-60.
8. Put the baking sheet in the oven, close the door and turn off.
9. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matthew 27:65-66.
10. Go to bed! Explain that they may feel sad to leave them in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers felt despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20 and 22.
11. On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matthew 28:1-9.

Out of Africa - the long journey our palm crosses make from Tanzania



Did you know that the crosses we use on Palm Sunday have travelled thousands of miles from Africa? The African Palms programme was founded in 1965 by Father Alan Talbot, an Anglican priest who served for six years as a missionary in the Diocese of Masasi in Tanzania, not far from the Mozambique border.

Father Talbot observed the poverty of the people and encouraged them to begin making palm crosses. At first he distributed them to friends and churches in London. From this small beginning the project spread until it included all of the UK, the US, Canada, Australia, Sweden, and Germany. This year over six million crosses have been sent worldwide.

The crosses, made from dried branches of the dwarf palm *Hyphaena coriacia*, are produced in seven villages near Masasi. Entire families take part in the project.

The net proceeds from the sale of crosses, and all donations received, are returned to Africa. These grants help meet very basic human needs, such as disaster and refugee relief, medical and public health programmes, agriculture and other projects that benefit all regardless of faith.

Money has helped villagers supplement their meagre income from farming; support AIDS education; equip a hospital; build water and sanitation plants; and help orphans.

The last words from the cross



The Bible quotes seven last sentences that Jesus spoke from the cross:

Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.

Luke 23:34

Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.

Luke 23:43

Woman, here is your son... Here is your mother.

John 19:26

My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?

Mark 15:34

I am thirsty.

John 19:28

It is finished.

John 19:30

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Luke 23:46

The seven last words have inspired a number of composers, including Schutz, Haydn, Dubois, and James MacMillan.

A prayer for our time

The prayers of Hippolytus (c190 - c236), though he lived in the third century, profoundly influenced 20th century liturgical writers. He was a priest in Rome who was deported to Sardinia during a persecution, where he died. His Easter hymn is widely used in the western church.

Easter, our Marriage Ceremony

You have protected us, Jesus, from endless disaster.
You spread your hands over us like wings.

You poured your blood over the earth,
Because you loved us.

The anger which we deserved you turned away from us
And restored us to friendship with God.

The heavens may have your spirit, paradise your soul,
But the earth has your blood.

We celebrate the coming of your Spirit always:
The Spirit leads the mystic dance throughout the year.
But Easter comes and goes.

Power came from heaven to raise you from death,
So that we and all creatures could see you.
All living things gather round you at Easter.
There is joy, honour, celebration, delight.

The darkness of death is driven away.
Life is restored everywhere.

The gates of heaven are thrown open.
In you, risen Jesus, God has shown us himself,
So we can rise to him as gods.

The gates of hell are shattered.
In you, risen Jesus, those already dead rise to life,
Affirming the good news of eternal life.
Now your promise has been fulfilled.
Now the earth is singing and dancing.
Easter is our marriage ceremony.
At Easter, dear Jesus, you make us your brides...

CHARITIES & LINKS COMMITTEE



This month: London Challenge and Fairtrade commitment, and the Church Urban Fund

Diocese announces a 2012 mission:possible

London Challenge 2012 was launched in St Paul's Cathedral on 8 February.

In the words of the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Richard Chartres: 'Since the launch of its first phase in January 2002, the London Challenge has helped us to see what we are already doing together as a Church serving 18 boroughs north of the Thames.'

'London Challenge 2012 is a kind of Diocesan Mission Action Plan. The intention is not to impose an **add on** programme on parishes, chaplaincies, schools and the other communities in the Diocese, but rather to invite them to reflect on how to relate their own plans for mission to this overview of the period 2007-2012.'

'We aim to **add up** our common wisdom and our efforts to be Christ's faithful witnesses and servants in 21st century London and to play our part in building the Holy City.'

'Each of the specific intentions assembled under our **seven commitments** is linked to a bulletin board. You are invited to post details of your own initiatives on these notice boards so that our prayers can be better informed.'

'At the same time we will all be encouraged by the breadth and the quality of the work that is being undertaken and to resist the temptation to keep the good news to ourselves.'



Trading places: Wendy Baker and Griselda Barrett at the Fairtrade stand at the Sainsbury's store, St Clares, on 3 March

Challenge Commitment 5c says London Diocese will strive to achieve Fairtrade status. Many parishes already use Fairtrade

Visit www.londonchallenge2012.org.uk to see how London parishes are helping to deliver the commitments.

tea and coffee so it shouldn't be difficult to reach the two thirds target. A campaign website <http://fairtrade.london.anglican.org> shows the status of all London parishes.

St James' already has its Fairtrade Certificate, but we can't just rest on our laurels - we all need to encourage others to use

more Fairtrade products, whether in the home, at work, at church, at school.

During Fairtrade Fortnight we helped to publicise available products in local supermarkets - part of St James' witness in our local community.

Trade Justice Action - Thursday 19 April 2007

Pick up a flyer in church or visit www.tjm.org.uk
Concern for others is not just about money, it's also about using our time and freedoms. Meet at 1100 outside the German Embassy, Belgrave Square, London SW1.

Tackling poverty here in England

The Church Urban Fund (CUF) supports thousands of men and women as they respond to the needs of their community and tackle poverty in some of the most deprived areas of England.

Established by the Church of England in 1987, following publication of *Faith in the City*, the Church Urban Fund has to date invested £60 million in grassroots projects across England. Each year, it distributes about £3 million in new grants.

St James' has supported the CUF for many years. It is a very good way to support faith-based social action throughout England.

Closer to home, eight community projects around London are being awarded grants by the CUF. The projects benefit a range of groups who are on the fringes of society in areas facing deprivation and issues related to social exclusion.

They include:

- The South Tottenham Youth Project, which runs four youth centres in a deprived area.

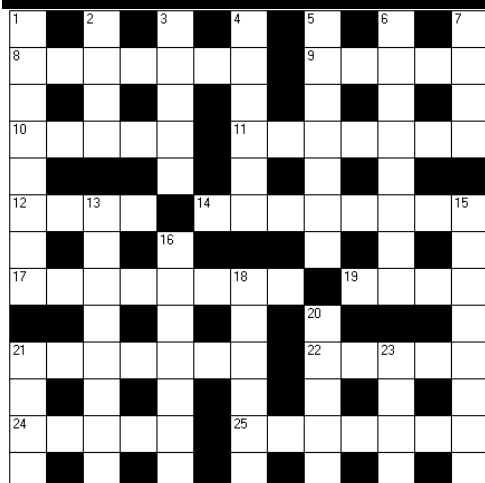
- The new Brent IntoUniversity project at St Mark's Kensal Green will provide academic support, mentoring and confidence building for young people and children aged 7-18 who are at risk of underachieving.

- The Isle of Dogs Parish Trust is creating a youth development project for young people aged 11-18.

These are just three examples of how a CUF grant is helping London parishes to meet the London Challenge.

Pick up a leaflet

The fact that 11.4 million people in Britain live in poverty (including 3.4 million children) is a shocking statistic (Source: DWP, 2006). If you would personally like to support the CUF, visit www.cuf.org.uk, call 020 7898 1667, or pick up a Challenging Poverty leaflet from the church.



Crossword No 200704

Across

- 8 Rainy spells common at this time (7)
9 Opening passage of a piece of music (5)
10 Moses built one in Exodus ch. 17 (5)
11 Second son of Joseph and Asenath in Genesis ch. 41 (7)
12 Period of fasting usually ending in April (4)
14 ..will stir up his _____ and courage (Dan 11.25) (8)
17 Feudal overlord (8)
19 Envelop, as Jesus was enveloped in Luke ch. 2 (4)
21 Better a patient man than this, says Proverbs ch. 16 (7)
22 Make cloth on a 7 down (5)
24 Name of Miss Havisham's house in Great Expectations (5)

- 25 Person sent to preach the gospel (7)

- 16 Trudge (7)
18 Incursion (6)

Down

- 1 Present inhabitants of the Promised Land (8)
2 ..every warrior's _____ used in battle (Isa 9.5) (4)
3 Tired (5)
4 ..from a point facing the _____ (Neh 3.19) (6)
5 Benaiah, in 2 Samuel ch. 23, was a valiant one (7)
6 Sheep will never follow one, according to John ch. 10 (8)
7 Cloth-making machine in Judges ch. 16 (4)
13 Home town of Jesus (8)
15 Occurred (8)

Answers to March crossword (200703): Across 7 Angola 8 Tonsure 10 Hebrew 11 White 12 Rust 13 Stone 17 Brick 18 Echo 22 Cross 23 Stipend 24 Willow 25 Sticky Down 1 Pastors 2 Agonise 3 Flour 4 Derwent 5 Grain 6 Sweet 9 Pentecost 14 Bristol 15 Screech 16 Mondays 19 Scowl 20 Godly 21 Dirty

TRIBUTE

The vision, determination and 'guiding' influence of our leader

As Sue Blay retires from the 3rd Hampton Hill Guides, **Carol Bailey** leads the tributes.

Eight years ago we had a thriving Brownie Pack here in Hampton Hill, but no Guide Unit for them to progress on to. Sue Blay had the vision, determination and energy to start up a new Guide Unit that has been fully subscribed ever since.

Over the years many of our young girls have had the opportunity to participate in a huge variety of activities and events that are a fantastic supplement to their academic education.

Guides meet every Tuesday during term-time and undertake a varied programme of challenges, crafts, sports and a myriad of other activities, many suggested by the girls themselves and many organised at other locations. We have done rafting, canoeing, shooting, swimming, adventure courses to name but a few.

Sue leads the planning of all this and is always open to new suggestions from the Guides, never taking the easy option, always happy to try something new.

Soon after starting the unit, Sue took and passed her permit to allow her to take the Guides away to camp and on other residential trips. Since then the Guides have been to

camp twice each year and usually there is at least one other week-end away such as Youth Hostelling. They are certainly the highlights of the Guides yearly programme.

The organisation to arrange such trips is not to be underestimated and Sue has ably, cheerfully, patiently and selflessly given her time to provide these opportunities for the Guides.

They gain tremendously in independence and organisational skills and undertake activities that many would otherwise never even try.

Two of my daughters have attended Guides and I cannot praise highly enough Sue's patience and understanding of the girls in her care. She achieves the respect and friendship of the Guides - not always an easy task with young people of that age, but perhaps helped by the fact she is a mum of two girls herself. And here I must just mention and say thank you to Katie, Claire and husband John who have 'given' so freely of their mum and wife over the years.

And maybe that is a clue as to why, after eight years, Sue has decided to retire as Guide leader, but not from Guiding completely, or her voluntary work with our young people.



PRILL HINCKLEY

As her girls have grown up and moved on from Guides, Sue has taken on other roles with them such as mentoring our Young Leaders (hopefully our future Guiders) and running a successful Duke of Edinburgh's group for the past three years. She is now going to concentrate her efforts with this older age group.

Search for a new Guider

I am sure everyone who has had a daughter attend 3rd Hampton Hill Guides will want to join with me in thanking Sue for all she has given them.

Guides has allowed them to develop team building and leadership skills, overcome personal challenges, achieve their own goals and, most importantly, throughout everything have great fun.

As our Guide unit moves into a new phase and we search for a new Guider to join Charlotte, a previous Guide who is now an Assistant Guider (thanks to Sue's mentoring), Sue's commitment and energy will remain an inspiration for us all.



St. Francis de Sales Church gave a very warm welcome to all those who attended the **Women's World Day of Prayer**. The service this year was devised by the women of Paraguay.

Christian Aid Week 12 - 19 May will soon be upon us. Margaret Taylor (tel 020 8979 3961) would be very pleased to hear from anyone who could spend an hour or two collecting during that week.

You will have noticed that the church is sparkling after its **annual spring-clean**. Thank you to all those who dusted, polished, scrubbed, removed cobwebs or assisted in any way.

Ann Peterken would be very pleased to hear from anyone who would consider helping her with **Churches Together Around Hampton**. It involves two or three meetings a year; please speak to Ann in church or on 020 8891 5862 for more details.

We'd like to apologise for an error in last month's issue. **Suzanne Nunn** has become engaged to **Daniel O'Connor** and not David, as stated.

The **Thameside Clarinet Choir** gave an evening of music composed and arranged for clarinets at St James' on 10 March. The programme included works by Gabrielli, Elgar, Gordon Lewin, Paul Harvey, Gordon Jacob and James Rae. Martin Hinckley's piece, *Fanfare and Ballade*, was specially written for the TCC and its excellent first performance was enthusiastically received.

During the family service on 4 March, the congregation were asked what they had **given up for Lent**. There were the usual offerings of chocolate, doughnuts, coffee... but one small boy at the back had a more original thought: 'Attacking my brother!'

Baptism takes St James' back to the future

By Margaret Taylor

When you do a baptism visit, there are always many interesting things to learn. Meeting parents with young babies (or not so young - some children are baptised quite old) brings you into lives at a critical point. We talk about the meaning of the service; what difference babies have made, what it feels like to be a new parent, about the day, the clothes, the party, will the priest drop the baby? Of course not - and the water is *always* warm.

At this particular baptism visit I discovered that the baby, Jasmine Jennifer Hall, is a descendant of Revd John Fitzroy Fitzwygram, who founded St James' Church in 1863. Together with his wife, they were also great benefactors of Hampton Hill, building houses and generally meeting the many social needs of what was then a rather poor area. Jasmine is the daughter of Paul and Jayne Hall



Founder: Revd John Fitzwygram

(nee Scorer) and the granddaughter of Colin and Susan Scorer (nee Wigram). She is the first cousin, five times removed, of Revd Fitzwygram. Why his father changed his name from Wygram is a mystery as no one else made the change. John was the eldest son (from a family of 17) of Sir Robert Wygram, who made his money building ships for the East India Company. The family home, now a school, was in Walthamstow.

REGISTERS

For February:

BAPTISMS

18 Jasmine Jennifer Hall,
Teddington

THE JAYS

The tree of life is a timely lesson

During February the two lower Sunday School classes looked at what we need to grow and compared ourselves with trees. God's message is that 'anyone who depends on people rather than God will have a hard time. They will be like a dried up shrub with no water; trying to live somewhere that does not give them what they need, whereas people who trust in God are like trees rooted in solid earth'. Using a collage, trees in the wilderness were compared with fruit trees in an orchard, and seeds were planted and taken home for that care and attention. Modern-day temptations were discussed along with abstinence over Lent. The top class prepared these intercessions for 4 March:

Let us pray for the church and for the world, and let us thank God for his goodness. We pray for all those who are suffering in wars, and for those who live in less fortunate countries than us. We thank God for food, and pray for those who don't have as much food as us.

Emma-Lee

We hope that our new vicar will settle into his new parish and that we will help him to feel at home. We hope his dog, Paddy, will also be happy in his new home.

Laura

Please help all religions to live together in peace. To get those in charge to talk together to stop all the wars.

Please let us pray for all those in

authority. Our teachers, who need patience to put up with us when we misbehave, wisdom to help us with our tests and kindness in supporting us in our new schools.

Alice Coaker

Please give strength to those who care for us, our mums and dads, our childminders, our older brothers and sisters, and our grandparents. Help them to be kind and gentle, but also to show us right from wrong. Please give strength and wisdom to the police who are having a difficult time with all the gun crime.

Olivia

Please look after all our neighbours in Hampton Hill, our neighbours in Europe, Asia, America, Antarctica, Africa and Australasia. Help us all

to live together in peace and to help one another.

Emma-Lee

We thank you for the world we live in, and all that we enjoy from the riches of the earth. Let us pray for the environment, the prevention of global warming and climate change. We pray that all leaders will come together and be united in this goal.

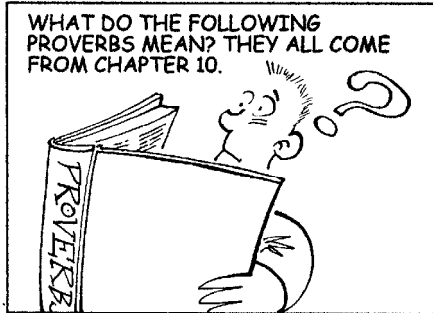
Stella

Please make those who are sick more comfortable. And give strength to those who have friends or relatives who are sick. We pray for (names taken from the book on the altar). We also pray for those who have recently died and give comfort to those who mourn.

Isobel

Picture Proverbs

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS IS A COLLECTION OF 'WISE' SAYINGS FROM THE HEART OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.



Serving God means putting aside what others think of us

Continuing our series looking at key Old Testament Bible characters with **Saul**

Saul was Israel's first king, who started off well but ended up being rejected by God (1 Samuel 15:10). The final straw came when he failed to destroy the Amalekites, a nomadic nation, as God had commanded (vs 3). What does this incident tell us of Saul's mistakes and how we can avoid them?

Total Obedience

Saul's action brought grief to both Samuel and God. When Samuel challenged him, Saul was full of excuses. He blamed his soldiers for sparing the best of the animals (vs.15) and believed that he was carrying out God's instructions. Like Saul, God holds us accountable for our actions, especially when we ignore his instructions. In what ways do we fail to put God's word into practice?

Whose honour?

When Samuel arrived, Saul was setting up a memorial to himself (vs. 12), admitting later that he was afraid of what people thought about him (vs. 24). Saul had lost a genuine desire to serve God, becoming more concerned about his own reputation and status. We often face the choice of either looking good before others or honouring God. When do we find it challenging to honour God before others?

Obedience not sacrifice

Saul argued that it was better to sacrifice the saved animals than to destroy them. However, Samuel reminded him that sacrifice was a symbol of the people's commitment to love and obey God, 'to obey is better than sacrifice' (vs. 22). For us attendance at services can never be used to offset behaviour or attitudes in the rest of life which are offensive to God. How do we make sacrifice an alternative to obedience?

Remember Jesus' words: 'Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven' (Matthew 7:21).



see Proverbs 10.1

Late to bed Jays enjoy their charity sleepover

The Jays' Sunday School *Bed and Breakfast* fundraiser for the Daisy Garland trust was a great success with everyone who joined in on 17 March.

The aim was to raise money for children with epilepsy, as well as their parents. To date, over £250 has been raised - with most of the sponsorship money still to come in.

The event was in three-parts:
■ The Sleepover. A £10 donation was asked for from parents for each child attending the sleepover. The children had a wonderful time, playing the 'fish race', making their own pizzas, washing up and tidying after themselves, planning the breakfast event for the next day and making posters for the hall, and finally watching a DVD. Of course, it was all very exciting sleeping over and they eventually all fell asleep at 1.15 am.

They then slept through - despite the clock bells sounding every quarter of an hour - until 6 am. The teachers (Lou Coker and Sarah Peterson) treated the children to a breakfast of orange juice, bacon rolls, doughnuts, tangerines and hot chocolate. The sleepover raised £110.

■ The sponsorship. Over the previous two weeks the children had been asking for people to sponsor them for the sleepover. So far £42 has been collected from sponsors, but most has still to be collected.

■ Breakfast before Mother's Day service. This was a first for the Jays and went down really well. Such a lot of positive feedback from this event. The menu was croissants and jam, bacon rolls, and orange juice, tea or coffee. We also had a pound stall, where we sold home made marmalade (courtesy of Ruth Gostling) and supermarket trolley tokens

The Jays raised £132 from the breakfast. Such was its success that we've been asked to run it again, so watch this space.

Jays Sunday School want to thank everyone for the support they gave during this event, including the use of the church hall (thank you Dick for the extra heating); the positive and kind things said to the children; for making the effort to arrive early to enjoy the breakfast; and for the very generous donations given to the charity.

YOURS FAITHFULLY

Jean Western

Jean Western now lives in Hampton, but continues to attend St James' where for 25 years she taught a branch of the Sunday School for children on the Rectory Estate.

When and why did you come to St James'?

My parents, sister and I went to live in St James' Avenue in May 1951. One essential in our house-hunting was to be within walking distance of an Anglican church for the sake of my stepmother who had had polio.

Our previous vicar in Tonbridge wrote a letter of introduction for us. Rupert and Connie Brunt quickly made themselves known and invited us to dinner - but no Christian names in those early days!

In 1952 Hannah Stanton invited me to join her and three girls from Lady Eleanor Holles School in running a Sunday School for children on the Rectory Estate. Eventually there were 50 children. I continued until 1977 when I went to New Zealand for five months and, with no one willing to take over, the Rectory School group merged with Betty Stewart's Wayside group.

When did you become a Christian?

My sister and I were both baptised as infants - my christening was in the church where my parents were married, my sister's was at home due to the health of both mother and baby. After my mother died it took time for me to realise that she wouldn't be there any more. It also took time for me to unravel what I had learned about God, Santa Claus and fairies - they were all mixed up together! I was still in difficulties - though for other reasons - when I was confirmed at the age of 16 by the Bishop of St Albans. He helped clear my mind about my relationship with God and the price which Jesus paid on my behalf. This was a turning point, though it was followed by many ups and downs.

The open air service that led to a Sunday school

Jean remembers the Rectory School group and the early days of the Young People's Fellowship

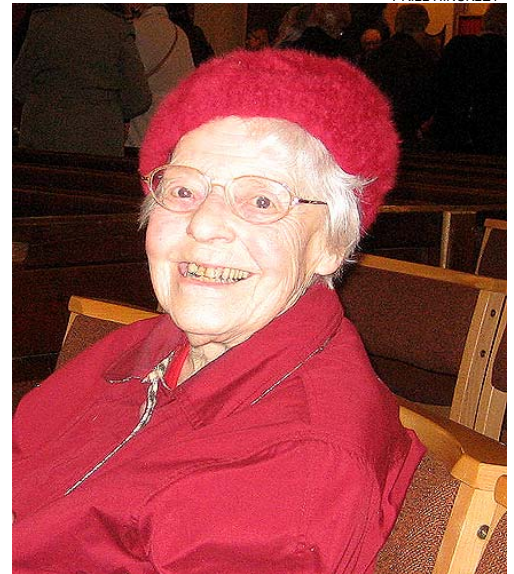
When we arrived at St James', Rupert Brunt (pictured, right) had just been appointed as vicar.

After the illness and death of the previous vicar and the interregnum, the church needed a lot of reorganisation. Rupert and Connie worked hard to revive parish life and gradually built up the various activities.

I was drawn into work with children. An open air service on the Rectory Estate followed by visits to the families living there led to the opening of a branch of the Sunday School. Hannah Stanton volunteered to start it up and asked me to join her together with three senior girls from Lady Eleanor Holles School.

It met in Rectory School and was originally aimed at children under eight. Eventually there were 50 children because parents thought that even older children were not responsible enough to cross the busy Uxbridge Road.

After Hannah left to do her theological studies, the



PRILL HINCKLEY

What difference does being a Christian makes to your life?

Rupert Brunt spoke of his habit of taking what practical steps he could and then offering the situation to the Lord. I do the same and as the Lord so often sorts things out for me. When I see so many other people in need of help, my chief question now is, 'Why choose me?' I still find the account of the disciples on the road to Emmaus a great prop and stay in many situations.

What do you most value about St James'?

Being part of a church that has been and continues to be changing and growing.

What is the most useful lesson you have learned in life so far?

To try not to make rigid judgments about the beliefs of other Christians or those of different faiths.



girls and I carried on - with spasmodic help from a number of other adults - until Easter 1977 when I went to New Zealand for five months.

No one felt able to carry on in my absence so, after 25 years, the children whose parents were willing for them to go, joined Betty Stewart's very ably-organised Sunday School at Wayside.

This was a time of expansion and several younger people got together and began the Young People's Fellowship (YPF), among them Rodney Bishop, Simon Harries and Alan Taylor.

In its early days the YPF met in the homes of the members of the congregation. It proved to be a good follow-up to Sunday School and activities and numbers increased.

The choir also attracted some of the young people with Ron Dafforne organising other interesting activities in addition to singing.

■ Do you have any memories or pictures of the Sunday School or YPF for a feature we plan to run later in the year? Please send your contributions to the Parish Office (contact details are on Page Two).

If music be your food of love, play on...

Our church orchestra, the St. James' Players, welcomes new members at any time. The Players can accommodate more or less any instrument at more or less any standard. There is no age limit, nor, in fact, any limits at all, although it does

help if a member can play a musical instrument! Instrumentalists need to be able to read the appropriate notation for their instrument. Anyone interested should contact Martin or Prill Hinckley on 020 8979 0528, or email: p.m.hinckley@blueyonder.co.uk

